GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:8021
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000
SEIZURE OF CONSIGNMENT BY UZBEK AUTHORITIES .
JITENDRA PRASADA;VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uzbek custom authorities recently seized a Pakistan bound consignment of highly radio-active materials on its border with Kazakhistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India was informed about it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. On 30th March 2000, Uzbek Customs authorities seized a truck registered in Iran and in transit from Kazakhstan to Pakistan via Uzbek territory. The truck was declared as carrying 23.2 tonnes of stainless steel scrap as per a contract between a Kazakh firm and a Pakistani company based in Quetta. The documents with the driver of the truck also included a certificate to the effect that the consignment did not contain radio-active material. However, the truck was discovered to contain ten lead containers with highly radioactive material. The Uzbek authorities have instituted criminal proceedings and begun an inquiry into the case.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. India was informed about the incident through diplomatic channels.